

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for server side insertion of content into streaming media including the steps of

providing a streaming server;

associating an insertion plugin with the streaming server;

generating a command which includes indicia for locating content desired by a user and indicia for locating a source for content to be inserted; and

substituting by the insertion plugin, in response to a signal associated with the content desired by the user, packets of content to be inserted for packets of the content desired by the user without requiring a re-buffering between the packets of content to be inserted and the content desired by the user; and

adjusting the time of at least one packet of content to be inserted to match the time of at least one substituted packet of content desired by the user,

wherein the substituting step is carried out at an edge server.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the generated command further including indicia reflective of the user.
3. (Currently Amended) A method for matching the timing of content inserted into a data stream with breaks in the data stream comprising:

prefetching the content to be inserted into the data stream;

storing the prefetched content on a local server;

identifying a starting point for a break in the data stream;

establishing an offset between the starting point of the break and an initial packet of the prefetched content, the offset being subtracted from a timestamp associated with the initial packet of the prefetched content;

removing from the data stream packets corresponding to a length of the break;

inserting the prefetched packets into the data stream to replace the removed packets without requiring a re-buffering between the prefetched packets and the data stream; and

adjusting the time of at least one inserted packet to match the time of at least one removed packet,

wherein the establishing and inserting steps are carried out at an edge server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further including adjusting the time of a plurality of inserted packets to match the time of a plurality of removed packets.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the data stream is a live broadcast.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the data stream is an on demand broadcast.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the location of the content desired by the user is identified by a URL.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the location of the content desired by the user is defined by a network address.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the location of the content desired by the user is identified by an XML playlist.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for inserting content into streaming media comprising

a streaming server for receiving content in the form of streaming media and passing it to a client;

an insertion plugin associated with the streaming server for redirecting the streaming media and capable of recognizing an impending break in a media stream, wherein the insertion plugin is located at a server side;

a source of content to be inserted proximate to the streaming server;

a decision server responsive to the impending break in the media stream for directing the insertion of content from the source of content to be inserted into the media stream for substantially the duration of the break, wherein data packets of the content received from the streaming server that corresponds to a length of the break are removed and are replaced by the content to be inserted by the insertion plugin without requiring an re-buffering between the media stream and the content to be inserted; and

a schedule engine providing an interface between the insertion plugin and the decision server for making a request to the decision server, receiving and parsing a playlist file from the decision server, and downloading content associated with the playlist file.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 further including a counter for identifying the number of times a universe of users sees a particular item of inserted content.

12. (Previously Presented) the method of claim 10, wherein the playlist file contains at least one of a local pre-recorded file, an advertisement, and a next request that are different types of items to be played.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the substituting is based on a playlist file on the streaming server determined by a decision server.